

What is claimed is:

1. A document search system for the retrieval of documents related to a search key that is entered, said system comprising:

    a word sense associative network presenting portion for presenting a meaning of said search key together with its related meaning in a network;

    a search portion for conducting a search using said search key; and

    a filtering portion for selecting documents from a set of documents obtained as a result of said search that matches selected word senses.

2. The document search system according to claim 1, wherein said search portion generates a search key based on selected word senses, and conducts a search using the thus generated search key.

3. The document search system according to claim 1, wherein said search portion conducts a cross-lingual document search in which said search portion searches documents written in a language different from that of the search key that is entered.

4. The document search system according to claim 1, wherein said search portion conducts a monolingual document search in which said search portion searches documents written in the same language as that of the search key that is entered.

5. The document search system according to claim 2, wherein said search portion conducts a cross-lingual document search in which said search portion searches documents written in a language different from that of the search key that is entered.

6. The document search system according to claim 2, wherein said search portion conducts a monolingual document search in which said search portion searches

documents written in the same language as that of the search key that is entered.